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ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH FISHERIES

by

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ABSTRACT

This document reviews on a worldwide basis the recent activities of regional fishery bodies. The review covers bodies established both within and outside the framework of FAO. It updates information regularly provided in similar documents to the Committee since its Eleventh Session. The information is presented by geographical areas. An annex indicates the membership, functions and geographical area of competence of each body.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This document reviews the major activities, since the last session of the Committee in 1985, of thirty marine and inland fishery bodies, established both within and outside the framework of FAO. For organizations the activities of which were reviewed in documents previously submitted to the Committee, the present document includes information only on their activities during the past two years. There are three organizations, i.e., the Pacific Salmon Commission, the Mixed Commission for Black Sea Fisheries and the Sub-regional Fishery Commission for West Africa, whose activities are brought to the attention of the Committee for the first time. For these three bodies, basic information on their establishment, objectives, functions and structures is also given.

2. As the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development approved by the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development stressed the need for establishing closer collaboration with regional economic groupings and other organizations concerned with fisheries, this document also provides information on the relevant activities of seven inter-governmental regional organizations and bodies concerned with fisheries. Of these regional bodies, the Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fish Products in the Asian/Pacific Region (INFOFISH) is a new organization included for the first time in this document.

I. MARINE FISHERY BODIES

ATLANTIC OCEAN AND ADJACENT SEAS

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

3. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) held its Seventy-third Statutory Meeting in London, United Kingdom, in October 1985 and its Seventy-fourth Statutory Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, in October 1986.

4. At both meetings, the Council considered scientific papers and reports on a wide range of cooperative research activities in the fields of fisheries, mariculture, marine pollution and oceanography being undertaken by scientists in its member countries under the Council's aegis. Prominent amongst these activities was the appraisal and assessment of exploited fishery resources in the North-East Atlantic and Baltic Sea and the associated provision, through the Council's Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM), of scientific advice on their conservation and management to member governments and international bodies. Attention was drawn to the serious problems created in the assessment work by the deterioration in the coverage of the reported catch and other statistics for some of the main fisheries in the area. This and other elements of the advisory system were also discussed at the Fifth Dialogue Meeting held in association with the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) in October 1985. The Sixth Dialogue Meeting will be held in Brussels in late October 1987.

5. Consideration was given to ICES participation in the International Recruitment Project (IREP) being developed under the IOC/FAO programme on Ocean Science and Living Resources (OSLR). An interdisciplinary Steering Group on IREP was established at the Seventy-third Statutory Meeting to inter alia: develop further an IREP oriented strategy for recruitment research within ICES, and to monitor on-going national and international recruitment investigations and to identify, plan and coordinate new joint international research projects within the framework of IREP.

6. The next Statutory Meeting of ICES will take place in Santander, Spain, from 1 to 9 October 1987.

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

7. The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) held its Fourth and Fifth Annual Meetings in London in November 1985 and November 1986. The Ad Hoc Committee on Technical Conservation Measures also met in June 1985 and July 1986. During 1986, Spain and Portugal withdrew from the Convention following their accession to the European Economic Community (EEC), which would in future represent them within the Commission.

8. At both Annual Meetings, the Commission considered the annual reports of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (AFCM) of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). These reports included a comprehensive assessment of all the major fish stocks and presented forecasts of catches and biomasses. Recommendations were made regarding ways of managing particular stocks. The Commission agreed that ICES should continue to provide scientific advice on the assessment of fish stocks in the NEAFC area.

9. At the Fourth Annual Meeting, the Commission discussed the latest report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Technical Conservation Measures and accepted the Committee's recommendation to publish a Manual of the technical conservation measures in force in the waters under the fisheries jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties.

10. At both Annual Meetings, the Commission discussed the state of the Atlanto-Scandian herring and blue whiting stocks. On herring, it was agreed that ACFM should provide further information on the stock, and in particular its distribution, for full consideration at the next meeting. On blue whiting, the Commission took note of the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee and agreed on a recommendation for a minimum mesh size of 35 mm applicable when using pelagic trawls in the NEAFC regulatory area. Concerning the blue whiting stock, consideration was also given to the possibility of formally establishing a total allowable catch (TAC).

11. The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission will be held in London from 23 to 25 November 1987.

International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC)

12. The Eleventh and Twelfth Sessions of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) took place in Warsaw in September 1985 and September 1986 .

13. The state of the Baltic fish stocks was reviewed during both sessions on the basis of reports of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

14. At both meetings, the Commission recommended TACs for herring and sprat for 1986 and 1987 for the entire Baltic, which were divided into allowable catches for each of the fishery zones. With reference to the stocks of cod and salmon, guidelines were recommended without specific figures attached to them.

15. During the Twelfth Session, the Commission decided to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to consider the problem of the Baltic salmon fishery on the basis of the proposal submitted by Finland and Sweden.

16. During the Twelfth Session of the Commission, both Poland and the USSR submitted memoranda regarding the exploitation of cod in the Baltic. After the Parties to the Convention have analysed these, the Commission may decide to establish an ad hoc working group of experts to deal with this problem and discuss the results at the Thirteenth Session of the Commission.

17. During the same Session, the Commission adopted changes in its Fishery Rules with regard to mesh-sizes and minimum landing sizes in Baltic fisheries. The Agreement between the Government of the Polish People's Republic and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission on the Legal Status, Privileges and Immunities of the Commission was approved.

18. The Thirteenth Session of the Commission will be held in Warsaw in September 1987.

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)

19. The Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) held its Second and Third Annual Meetings in Edinburgh in June 1985 and June 1986. At its Third Annual Meeting, the Council approved the accession of the USSR to the Convention. Greenland, following withdrawal from the EEC in 1985, is represented by Denmark. In November 1985, the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and NASCO entered into force and in 1986 the Organization purchased its Headquarters in Edinburgh.

20. At its Second Annual Meeting, the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management (ACFM) was presented and the NASCO Council requested further scientific advice from ICES. The three regional commissions considered the scientific advice from ICES but were unable to adopt any regulatory measures.

21. At its Third Annual Meeting, the Report of the ACFM was presented to the Council. The West Greenland Commission adopted a proposal for a total allowable catch (TAC) at West Greenland of 850 tonnes in both 1986 and 1987 and the North American Commission adopted a regulatory measure closing the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery on 15 October 1986. The Council considered progress made on developing a format for the analysis of catch statistics for salmon stocks, as well as progress on provision to the Secretary by each Contracting Party of laws, regulations and programmes in force relating to the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks. The Council agreed that its Secretary, in consultation with ICES, should review the status of the existing Atlantic salmon management tagging programmes and investigate the desirability of establishing a central repository for all tagging information.

22. The next Annual Meeting of the NASCO Council and its regional Commissions will be held in Edinburgh in June 1987.

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

23. The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held its Seventh Annual Meeting in Havana, Cuba, in September 1985 and its Eighth Annual Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in September

1986. Portugal and Spain, having joined the European Economic Community at the beginning of 1986, declared that they would withdraw from the Convention from 31 December 1986.

24. The Scientific Council met on three occasions in both 1985 and 1986. A short meeting in January of each year resulted in the provision of scientific advice for the management, in 1986, of the shrimp stocks in Davis Strait and Denmark Strait. At its 1985 Meeting, the Council reviewed the status of the harp and hooded seal populations in the Northwest Atlantic. Scientific Council meetings in 1985 and 1986 focused on the provision of scientific advice for the management, in 1987, of 20 stocks in NAFO subareas 0 to 4.

25. At both Annual Meetings, the Scientific Council informed the Fisheries Commission on the status, and provided scientific advice for the management of certain stocks outside and overlapping the Canadian 200-mile fishery zone.

26. In 1985, the NAFO Fisheries Commission adopted TACs and allocated quotas for 1986 for fish stocks in the Regulatory Area and for fish stocks overlapping national fishing limits. The Commission also considered proposals for revision and improvement of some of the rules for the management and conservation of stocks in the Regulatory Area. In 1986, a working group to revise the NAFO Enforcement Measures was formed.

27. At both Annual Meetings, the Council continued the study of its Rules of Procedure and of the problems resulting from the presence in the Regulatory Area of vessels belonging to non-member States.

28. The next NAFO Annual Meeting will be held in Halifax or Dartmouth, from 9 to 18 September 1987.

Joint Fishery Commission (JFC)

29. During the period under review, the Joint Fishery Commission (JFC) continued the activities of the joint international expeditions on board Polish, Bulgarian and Soviet vessels with the participation of experts from Cuba and the German Democratic Republic. The purpose of these expeditions was to develop further the studies of the main resources of the Northeast Atlantic outside the 200 mile limit. The Commission also organized a Seminar on the Utilization of Mesopelagic Species.

30. Further investigations and experiments were carried out by the Commission regarding new fishing techniques and processing equipment for traditional and new species. Progress had been made in the exchange of scientific and technical information using computer techniques. The Commission continued its activities on the development of marine aquaculture and a symposium on this subject was held in Romania.

General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

31. The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its Eighteenth Session in Monte Carlo, Monaco, from 6 to 10 October 1986. For the first time, Albania sent observers to the Session.

32. The Council reviewed its activities since 1984. These activities had concentrated on fishery statistics, resource assessment, fishing technology and regional cooperation. The Council had placed particular emphasis on the assessment of small-scale fisheries and the management of the coastal area. The Council made several proposals regarding the continuation of the above activities for the next intersessional period.

33. In 1986, the Council organized the First Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Eastern Mediterranean. A second consultation was planned to be held in Greece in 1987. Consultations on stock assessment in the Western and Central Mediterranean and Adriatic had been also held regularly.

34. The Council took initial steps to make extensive surveys of stocks exploited in common by several countries in the Western Mediterranean. It discussed in detail the management of the coastal areas and their protection against indiscriminate trawling, the creation of artificial reefs and open sea mariculture structures. The Council also noted that better utilization of small pelagic species could constitute an alternative to the over-exploited demersal resources and offer prospects for increased fish production in the area.

35. The Nineteenth Session of the GFCM will be held in Rome in September/October 1988.

Mixed Commission for Black Sea Fisheries

36. The Mixed Commission for Black Sea Fisheries was established by a Convention between the Governments of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Romanian Socialist Republic and the Union of

Soviet Socialist Republics concerning fishing in the Black Sea; it was signed in 1959 and entered into force in March 1960. Two main objectives of the Convention, as specified in Article 1, are: (a) the Contracting Parties agree to co-operate and to assist one another in carrying on rational fishing in the Black Sea and (b) to carry out research studies for the purpose of maintaining and augmenting the stocks of fish in the Black Sea with a view to increasing the yield.

37. The Commission's main functions relate to fishing regulation and rational exploitation of the living resources and carrying out research in the fields of oceanography, fishing, technology and aquaculture (Art.9). The Commission takes decisions on the species and dimensions of fish that may be caught in the Black Sea. On all other matters, it may make recommendations which will become effective if none of the Contracting Parties raises objections within four months.

38. The Commission held its Seventeenth Session in October 1986 in Constanza, Romania. Decisions taken at this Session included the extension of the ban on dolphin catching and new measures to be taken to preserve the existing turbot stock. The Commission advised its members to consider amendments to the Convention with respect to the extension of jurisdiction to 200 miles in the Black Sea.

39. The Eighteenth Session of the Mixed Commission will be held in the USSR in May-June 1988.

Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)

40. The Tenth Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) was held in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, from 24 to 27 November 1986.

41. The Committee considered the actions taken both by the Secretariat and the CECAF Programme, as well as by member countries, on recommendations and major decisions of the Ninth Session.

42. On fishery statistics, the Committee observed that a number of maritime boundaries were now being agreed upon between countries in the region and that it might be possible to introduce a statistical grid on this basis. It noted that an improved grid based on resources and ecological considerations would be of more use to scientists engaged in stock assessment and lead to better management on a stock-by-stock basis. The Committee approved a resolution urging Member coastal States who had entered into bilateral agreements to request their partners (in particular USSR) to improve statistical data submitted to them and to intensify scientific cooperation.

43. On the management of resources, the Committee noted the significant progress made by several countries with regard to information on resources and recommended that consideration be given to striking a balance between the presence of foreign fleets and the development of national fisheries capacity, as well as the protection of the artisanal fisheries sector from unfavourable competition with industrial fisheries.

44. The Eleventh Session of the Committee and the Eighth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Development will be held in Cameroon in 1988.

Sub-Regional Fishery Commission for West Africa

45. Since 1976, the Ministers responsible for fisheries of Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal have met regularly to discuss problems of common interest. In 1980, the Ministers adopted a Joint Declaration setting up a Sub-Regional Ministerial Conference, a Coordinating Committee and a Secretariat. In 1984, the Conference considered a draft Convention prepared by the Secretariat to give a formal legal basis to sub-regional cooperation. The final text of the Convention establishing a Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries was signed by the five countries on 29 March 1985. The Convention will enter into force when all the signatory States have deposited their instruments of ratification. Membership of the Commission is open to the countries of the sub-region.

46. The objectives of the Commission are to undertake a long-term harmonization of the Member States fishery policies and to strengthen cooperation for the benefit of their respective populations. The organs of the Commission are a Conference of Ministers, a Coordinating Committee and a Permanent Secretariat. The Conference of Ministers is the supreme authority of the Commission and its decisions are taken unanimously by the Member States who undertake to ensure their implementation.

47. The Coordinating Committee is the intermediate authority between the Conference of Ministers and the Secretariat. It guides the work of the Permanent Secretary especially with regard to the organization of meetings and the execution of the decisions of the Conference .

48. The executive organ of the Commission is the Permanent Secretariat, headed by a Permanent Secretary who is responsible, inter alia, for the correct execution of the decisions of the Conference of Ministers, the organization of meetings and the preparation of documents.

49. The Sixth Session of the Conference of Ministers was held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 24 to 26 February 1986. A programme of work for 1986/87 was adopted which includes the following activities:

(a) development of sub-regional cooperation in the field of control and surveillance of vessels fishing in the waters under the jurisdiction of Member States;

(b) preparation of a detailed project document for the setting up of a sub-regional system for collecting and processing fisheries statistics data;

(c) harmonization of national requirements on mesh sizes and size of fishes at first capture; and

(d) elaboration of a joint fisheries research programme.

The Commission requested FAO to provide assistance regarding the implementation of some of its programmes.

Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)

50. The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) held its Fifth Session from 17 to 19 July 1985 in Castries, Saint Lucia. Since the last session of COFI, Honduras and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had joined the Commission while Italy had withdrawn.

51. The Commission reviewed its inter-sessional activities which included training for stock assessment and artisanal fisheries; technical missions to several countries of the region; sessions of the Working Parties on the Assessment of Marine Fishery Resources and on Fishery Statistics; and consultations on fishery legislation.

52. The Second Session of the WECAFC Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Lesser Antilles was held in Saint Lucia in July 1985. The Committee's main recommendations included standardization of methodology for data collection and training courses for fishermen and boat builders.

53. The Fifth Session of the Working Party on Assessment of Marine Resources was held in Saint George, in November 1986. It reviewed the results of the research work carried out since its previous session and identified areas which needed more cooperative research work such as mapping and protection of the critical habitats, measures to reduce adverse impacts of fish trapping practices and mechanisms for collection and exchange of data on shared resources.

54. The Fourth Session of the Working Party on Fishery Statistics was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in November 1986. It made recommendations for the improvement of biological and socio-economic data and the reduction of systematic errors in catch and effort statistics. It also considered the desirability of establishing national and regional data centres.

55. The Sixth Session of the Commission will be held in Mexico in July 1987.

Regional Fisheries Advisory Commission for the Southwest Atlantic (CARPAS)

56. No session of this Commission was held during the period under review.

Joint Technical Commission for the Argentina/Uruguay Maritime Front (CTMFM)

57. During the period under review, the Joint Technical Commission for the Argentina/Uruguay Maritime Front (CTMFM) prepared a joint research plan for the evaluation and monitoring of fishery resources of the common fishery zone of Argentina and Uruguay. The plan was carried out by research vessels of both countries and included three seasonal surveys for the evaluation of coastal resources of common interest and three seasonal surveys for the evaluation of hake (Merluccius hubbsi) stocks.

58. The Working Party of the Sub-Committee on Living Resources submitted to the Commission a number of technical reports on biomass, seasonal distribution, migratory patterns, structural and dynamic characteristics of the species investigated during the above-mentioned surveys. The Commission also examined various aspects of determining total allowable catches and their allocation.

59. The Second and the Third Scientific Symposia and the First and Second Meetings of Fisheries Entrepreneurs were held. In 1986, the Commission published the first volume of a series entitled "Publications of the Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front".

60. The Commission prepared an agreement on cooperation between the two countries on pollution. It also considered the question of mesh sizes used by fishing vessels and a survey on selectivity is planned for 1987.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

61. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) held its Ninth Regular Meeting in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in November 1985 and its Fifth Special Meeting in Madrid, Spain, in November 1986. In January 1987, Senegal informed the Director-General of FAO of its decision to withdraw from the Commission. The state of the stocks of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species, on the basis of the reports of the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), was discussed.

62. The Commission reviewed the conservation measures currently in force and, acting on the advice of its scientific committee and panels, decided to maintain its regulatory measures on bluefin, yellowfin and bigeye tunas. As regards the Protocol to the ICCAT Convention for the accession of inter-governmental economic integration organizations, instruments of approval, ratification or acceptance had been deposited by Cape Verde, France, Korea (Rep. of), Japan, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, United States, Uruguay and the USSR.

63. Because of the increase in the stock abundance of yellowfin tuna brought about by a decrease in purse seine effort, a special research endeavour, the "Yellowfin Year Program", had been put into effect by the Commission. The Program Plan was drawn up in late 1985/early 1986 and the results of the first year's activities were reported to the Commission at the 1986 meeting. This Program will be continued in 1987.

64. The Commission also approved a "Program of Enhanced Research for Billfish" to correct deficiencies in basic data on growth, mortality and stock structure of billfish species. Special research will also be carried out in 1987 on swordfish to assess the current status of this stock.

65. The Tenth Regular Meeting of the Commission will be held in the Azores in November 1987.

International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF)

66. The International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF) held its Eighth Regular Session in Tarragona, Spain, from 26 November to 12 December 1985 and its Seventh Special Meeting in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in December 1986.

67. At its 1985 Session, the Commission adopted amendments to the Convention to allow the adherence of the European Economic Community (EEC) in place of the EEC Member States which were already members of ICSEAF.

68. The Commission continued its scientific studies on the state of the fish resources off the southwest coast of Africa. It adopted certain measures for the protection of the resources, including limitations on the total catches of hake, Cape horse mackerel, chub mackerel and snoek. In addition, the Commission decided to continue the following regulatory measures: the reporting system to monitor catches of Cape horse mackerel, chub mackerel and horse mackerel; the closed area within 25 km of the coast, and the minimum mesh sizes of 110 mm for hake fisheries and 60 mm for all other trawl fisheries. The Commission noted that only five countries had notified the Secretariat of inspectors and inspection vessels operating in the Convention area. It recognized that a larger number of countries should perform this important function and hoped that other countries in the area would participate in inspection tasks in the future.

69. At the Seventh Special Meeting of the Commission, it was agreed to reduce the total catch of hake and horse mackerel by 14 percent and 10 percent respectively for 1987. With reference to the enforcement of catch quotas of protected species, an ad hoc working group was set up to establish the relationship between fishing effort and national quotas and will be convened in Madrid in June 1987.

70. The Ninth Regular Session of the Commission will be held in Madrid from 30 November to 14 December 1987.

INDIAN OCEAN AND INDO-PACIFIC AREA

Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC)

71. The Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) held its Eighth Session from 2 to 6 July 1985 in Bangkok, Thailand.

72. The Commission discussed the state of marine fisheries in the Indian Ocean and observed that catches from the Indian Ocean had increased substantially. Shrimp and tuna were the main resources

of economic importance, the former were exploited practically everywhere to or over their maximum sustainable level. Fishing craft and gear were developing slowly and further improvements could be achieved through technical cooperation with developing countries. The Commission discussed various ways in which FAO could assist member countries, particularly as regards the establishement or improvement of data collection systems and the formulation of management plans.

73. On fish utilization and marketing, the Commission noted that the problem of fish quality control and inspection was causing severe economic losses and considered that it was necessary to improve handling and processing and to strengthen national quality control and inspection systems.

74. The IOFC Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna held its Eighth Session in December 1985 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and its Ninth Session in December 1986 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. At both sessions, the Committee reviewed the current trends in tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean, the state of the resources, prospects for the exploitation of tuna resources and the interaction between fisheries. The Committee discussed the report of the Indo-Pacific Tuna Development and Management Programme (IPTP) and, at its Ninth Session, endorsed a draft project document for the continuation of the IPTP project from 1987 to 1989.

75. The IOFC Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southwest Indian Ocean held its Fourth Session in November 1986 in Zanzibar, Tanzania. It discussed the state of marine fisheries in the Southwest Indian Ocean and noted that, following its recommendations at previous sessions, two workshops, one on Assessment and Management of Shrimp Resources (Mauritius, October 1985) and one on Fisheries Joint Ventures (Tanzania, October 1986) had been held. It also discussed the progress report of the FAO/UNDP Regional Fisheries Project for the Southwest Indian Ocean (RAF/79/065) and was advised that UNDP had agreed to extend the project for the next programming cycle (1987-91).

76. The IOFC Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal held its Third Session from 25 February to 1 March 1985 in Bangkok, Thailand, and its Fourth Session in February 1986 in Malé, Republic of the Maldives. Major topics discussed included a review of the progress made by the Project for the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal, a tripartite review of the Project for Marine Fishery Resources Management in the Bay of Bengal, the state of fishery resources in the region, and the future of the Bay of Bengal Programme. The Fifth Session of the Committee and the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the new project on Small-Scale Fisherfolk Communities in the Bay of Bengal will be held in March 1987.

77. The IOFC Committee for the Development and Management of the Fishery Resources of the Gulfs held its Sixth Session in October 1986 in Rome, Italy. Major topics discussed by the Committee included the status of shrimp and fish resources, the centralization and standardization of fishery data collection, and the status of fisheries development planning.

78. The next session of the IOFC is scheduled to be held in September 1988 in the Seychelles.

Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission (IPFC)

79. The Twenty-second Session of the Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission (IPFC) was held from 16 to 26 February 1987 in Darwin, Australia. The Commission reviewed the conclusions of its Working Party on Inland Fisheries, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 1986, and the inter-sessional activities of its other subsidiary bodies, especially the role of the Standing Committee on Resource Research and Development (SCORRAD). A Symposium on the Exploitation and Management of Marine Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia was organized in conjunction with this session.

80. The IPFC Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the South China Sea held its Fifth Session from 28 to 30 July 1986 in Bangkok, Thailand, and reviewed its activities since the Fourth Session.

81. The Committee noted that FAO technical assistance in respect of the resources of the region was being provided through the Organization's Regular Programme work on the assessment of multispecies resources in the Indo-Pacific region. In addition, FAO was planning to organize a regional workshop/consultation on the assessment of multispecies resources and multi-gear fisheries in the Indo-Pacific region in the second half of 1987. The Committee also reviewed country statements outlining the state of national fisheries, policy objectives, major strategies adopted for management and development by Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

82. The Committee discussed progress made in the implementation of the preparatory assistance for the ASEAN/UNDP/FAO Regional Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries Development Project that had become operational in October 1985. It noted the progress achieved so far in upgrading the technical capabilities through training programmes.

PACIFIC OCEAN

International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC)

83. The International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC) held its Thirty-second Annual Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, in November 1985 and its Thirty-third Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, in November 1986. The Commission also held an Extraordinary Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, in April 1986.

84. At both Annual Meetings, the Commission reviewed the results of conservation programmes and scientific research on North Pacific fishery resources. It agreed that continued emphasis should be placed on coordinated research to determine the continent of origin of salmon found south of latitude 46°N and in other parts of the Convention area. The Commission reviewed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Marine Mammals which is responsible for studies with respect to marine mammals incidentally caught in the Convention area when fishing for anadromous species.

85. The Commission organized a Symposium in Tokyo in October 1985. Topics were: Biological Interactions of Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Region, and Environmental and Biological Factors Affecting Recruitment, Distribution and Abundance of Non-Anadromous Species.

86. At its Extraordinary Meeting, the Commission discussed conservation measures for North American salmonids and adopted a recommendation to amend the Annex to the Convention. The amendment, which concerned the area of fishing and fishing effort of specified Japanese salmon fisheries, came into effect on 23 May 1986 when it was accepted by all three governments.

87. At the 1986 Annual Meeting, the Commission reviewed the status of implementation of the amended Annex. The delegates noted the importance of INPFC as a forum for cooperation among member countries regarding fish stocks in the North Pacific and confirmed the plans for holding another international symposium in 1987.

88. The next Annual Meeting of the Commission will be held in Vancouver, Canada, in November 1987.

International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)

89. The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) held its Sixty-first Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, in January 1985 and its Sixty-second Annual Meeting in Seattle, USA, in January 1986.

90. At the Sixty-first Annual Meeting, the Commission reviewed the results of the 1984 fishery for Pacific halibut, the total catch of which was 44.97 million pounds. The Commission discussed the status of stocks and established regulations for 1985. It recommended to the Governments of Canada and the United States a total catch limit of 55.75 million pounds for 1985 and proposed a number of regulatory measures such as fishing periods, nursery areas, size limits, gear restrictions, and sport fishery regulations. The Commission expressed optimism that annual catches of 50 to 60 million pounds were sustainable. It also noted the incidental catch of Pacific halibut in other fisheries and urged its two members to continue their efforts to reduce these losses.

91. At the Sixty-second Annual Meeting, the 1985 fishery for Pacific halibut was reviewed and the results of the Commission's research were also discussed. The total catch in 1985 was 56.1 million pounds. The Commission, on the basis of the status of the stocks of Pacific halibut after the 1985 season, recommended a total catch limit of 66.4 million pounds for 1986. The Commission once more expressed its concern over the incidental catch of Pacific halibut and submitted recommendations to control the problem.

92. The Sixty-third Annual Meeting of the Commission was held in Vancouver, Canada, in January 1987.

Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC)

93. On 31 December 1985, the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission (IPSFC) was terminated after nearly 50 years during which stocks of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon were restored to high levels unseen since the disastrous landslide at Hell's Gate in 1913.

94. The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) was established pursuant to the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Treaty was ratified on 18 March 1985 and the Commission held its first meeting at Seattle, USA, in September 1985. The Government of Canada is generally responsible for the management of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon, including production and enhancement. The Commission headquarters and its permanent staff are located at Vancouver, Canada.

95. The Commission consists of four members and four alternates from each country who provide representation for the national governments, fisheries agencies, native interests and user groups. The Commission has two primary responsibilities: prevent overfishing and provide for optimum production, and provide for each country to receive benefits equivalent to the production of salmon originating in its waters. To do this, the Commission is advised by three geographically-oriented Panels (Northern, Fraser River, and Southern). The Commission and Panels are supported by technical committees which advise on technical issues.

96. Negotiation of the harvest allocation for fisheries of one country, subject to intercepting stocks originating in the other country's waters, is a major activity of the Commission. Allocation agreements for most fisheries were written into the Treaty for its two years (1985 and 1986) making the 1987 season the first major negotiations undertaken by the new Commission. These were expected to be completed by March 1987 when the Commission would submit its recommendations to each country for ratification.

North Pacific Fur Seal Commission (NPFSC)

97. The North Pacific Fur Seal Commission (NPFSC) held its Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, in April 1985. The most recent Protocol to extend the Interim Convention establishing the Commission beyond 1985 was signed in Washington in October 1984 and will come into force when all the signatories have ratified it. The Protocol has, so far, been ratified by Japan, Canada and the USSR.

98. In 1984, the total number of commercially harvested fur seals by the USSR was 7 400. The commercial harvest of fur seals by the United States amounted to 22 034.

99. The Commission reviewed the fur seal research carried out by the scientists of member countries and recommended that pelagic, land and general research on fur seals should continue in 1985. The Commission also discussed the commercial harvest for 1985. A total number of 7 100 was planned to be harvested by the USSR. The United States' Commissioner noted that if a "conventional" harvest were to be conducted in 1985, it was predicted that 23 499 fur seals would be commercially exploited.

100. The Fourth Workshop on Population Trends of Northern Fur Seals was held in Tokyo, Japan, in April 1985. It concluded that the population of northern fur seals on the Pribilof Islands was declining, while the populations on San Miguel Island and Bogoslof Island had remained relatively stable. The workshop recommended that problems related to the population decline should be approached from a broad prospective.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (I-ATTC)

101. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (I-ATTC) held its Fourty-third meeting in Tokyo, Japan, in October 1985. The Commission did not hold any meeting in 1986.

102. As in the past, the research programmes carried out by the I-ATTC were reviewed during the meeting. The two extensive data gathering tasks undertaken by the I-ATTC staff are the catch and effort data collection and length-frequency sampling and the scientific programme. The Commission has carried out studies on yellowfin, skipjack, bluefin, bigeye, black skipjack and dolphins and a laboratory has been established at Achotines, Panama, to rear yellowfin and other scombrids.

103. The tuna-dolphin programme was reviewed and it was noted that observers trained by the US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and scientific technicians trained by the I-ATTC had accompanied tuna vessels on several trips to collect data on abundance and distribution of dolphins and their mortality due to fishing for tunas. The Commission also received a brief account of the programme in which the I-ATTC staff is encouraging the vessels to use high-power lights to illuminate the backdown channel of their nets at nights, which appears to reduce the mortality of dolphins caught in the nets.

104. The Commission's Secretariat recommended a minimum quota of 175 000 short tons for 1986 with provisions for two increments of 15 000 tons each, one or both of which could be added to the minimum quota at the discretion of the Director.

105. The Eastern Pacific Ocean Tuna Fishery Agreement has been signed by Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the United States, but not yet ratified.

106. The next I-ATTC meeting will be held in Panama in May 1987.

South Pacific Permanent Commission (SPPC)

107. The South Pacific Permanent Commission (SPPC) held its Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting in the Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos, Ecuador, in August 1985.

108. The Permanent Commission reviewed the implementation of the Regional Study of El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN) which is supervised by a special scientific committee. It stressed the importance of greater involvement of experts from the region in the evaluation of the various effects of the phenomenon and recommended that a study on the socio-economic consequences be undertaken. The Commission also approved basic principles for the harmonization of national legislation on marine research by foreign vessels.

109. In 1985, FAO and SPPC signed an agreement to reinforce the cooperation between the two organizations. The agreement provides inter alia for cooperation in fishery management and development, research on the living resources of the sea, staff training, dissemination of information, and the planning, preparation and holding of technical and scientific meetings; and collaboration within the limits of their resources in the execution of activities and programmes conducted by either organization in the region.

110. A Seminar on Environmental Interactions and Living Marine Resources in the Southeast Pacific, organized by SPPC, took place in April 1986 in Bogota, Colombia. The evidence of the recovery of the anchoveta, which seems to have recovered to the late sixties level off Peru and Chile, and has even been reported off Ecuador in high concentrations, was discussed. The Seminar was followed by the Eleventh Session of the Scientific Committee on Scientific Research of the SPPC. During this Session the delegates acknowledged the technical assistance provided by FAO and noted that SPPC should make every effort to strengthen cooperation with FAO.

111. In 1986, the headquarters of the Permanent Commission was moved from Quito to Bogota (Colombia). The Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Permanent Commission will be held in Colombia in 1987.

South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

112. The Fisheries Committee of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) held its Tenth Session from 29 April to 3 May 1985 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, and its Eleventh Session from 28 April to 2 May 1986 in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. A High Level Meeting on Regional Co-operation in Fisheries Management and Development was also held from 26 to 29 March 1985 in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

113. At its Tenth Meeting, the Forum Fisheries Committee reviewed the reports of the meetings which were co-ordinated by FFA including a Workshop on National Tuna Fishing Operation, the First Regional Fisheries Surveillance and Enforcement Meeting, and the High Level Meeting on Regional Co-operation in Fisheries Management and Development. In 1985, FFA provided legislative assistance to Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Palau. In addition, assistance for access negotiations continued to be a major aspect of the Agency's work programme. Agency staff were involved in statistical analyses, preparation of briefs and attendance at negotiating sessions in the following cases in 1985: Cook Islands/Korea (Rep. of), Federated States of Micronesia/Japan, Kiribati/Korea (Rep. of), Kiribati/Japan, Kiribati/USSR, Palau/Japan, Papua New Guinea/Japan, Tuvalu/Korea (Rep. of), Federated States of Micronesia/Kiribati, Palau/US fishing interests and FFA States/US Government. The Committee discussed a recommendation by the High Level Meeting regarding a study of fisheries research needs in the region and noted that FAO might be able to undertake this study which could follow the approach taken in the earlier FAO/UNDP consultancy on Regional Fisheries Development and External Assistance Needs for Fisheries.

114. At its Eleventh Meeting, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Forum that the application by the Marshall Islands for membership should be accepted. The Committee discussed the report of the Director of the SPC Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme and approved the work programme for 1986 and 1987.

115. FFA organized two regional Legal Consultations; the first was held in Suva in January 1985 and the second in Papua New Guinea in June 1986. FAO was represented at both Consultations.

116. FAO continues to work closely with the FFA on a regional approach to assisting South Pacific Island States in the management and further development of their fisheries, in particular, harmonization of access agreements for foreign fishing.

117. The UNDP/FAO South Pacific Regional Development Programme is an important conduit of FAO's collaboration with the FFA. The Programme offers an important input to FFA's training programme through jointly-executed workshops and courses. A representative from FFA participated in the FAO Ad Hoc Consultation on Global Tuna Statistics, held in Colombo, in December 1985.

118. A Regional Fishery Support Programme for a period of three years has been approved by UNDP with FAO as the executing agency and will become operational in 1987.

OTHER AREAS

Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries (OLDEPESCA)

119. Since the last session of COFI, Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela have joined the Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries (OLDEPESCA).

120. During the period under review, three Ministerial Conferences and two sessions of the Governing Council of OLDEPESCA were held and a number of resolutions and declarations aimed at strengthening the Organization and furthering the development of regional fisheries were passed.

121. In 1985, an agreement was signed between FAO and OLDEPESCA. The agreement provides for: (a) exchange of information and documents on subjects of common interest; (b) consultation on planning and implementation of programmes of interest to both organizations; (c) undertaking of joint studies; and (d) implementation of scientific and technical cooperation in the field of research on resources, catch, processing and marketing of fishery products.

122. OLDEPESCA and FAO have collaborated closely in drawing up several projects concerning the region. To this end, an FAO/OLDEPESCA Working Group on Fisheries Research off the Pacific Coast of Central America was established. Its first meeting was held in Guatemala City from 9 to 12 July 1985. The second meeting of the Working Group was held in Panama from 15 to 19 September 1986.

123. Discussions are also in progress between the two organizations regarding the incorporation of the Market Information Service for Fishery Products in the Latin American Region (INFOPESCA) into OLDEPESCA.

124. OLDEPESCA and the South Pacific Permanent Commission (SPPC) have been working toward the establishment of the Eastern Pacific Tuna Organization. The Working Group for Regional Coordination to Utilize the Tuna Resources has approved a draft Convention for the establishment of such an Organization.

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

125. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) held its Fourth and Fifth Meetings in September 1985 and September 1986 in Hobart, Australia.

126. During the period under review, Brazil, India and the Republic of Korea have joined the Commission. Spain, Sweden and Uruguay have acceded to the Convention but have not yet sought membership in the Commission. The Agreement establishing the legal basis for the operation of the CCAMLR Permanent Headquarters in Hobart was signed during the Fifth Meeting of the Commission.

127. At the 1985 meeting, stock assessments of commercial fish species were reviewed and updated. The Commission adopted several conservation measures, in particular, for Antarctic marbled cod (Notothenia rossii).

128. The meeting of the Scientific Committee was preceded by the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment. The Working Group made assessments on three stocks in South Georgia waters, two stocks in South Orkney waters and three stocks in Kerguelen waters. All showed that stocks were heavily exploited or severely depleted. The Commission, at its 1986 meeting, adopted further measures aimed at the protection of marbled cod in all areas where it has been commercially fished. It also adopted a conservation measure which would permit the Commission, at its 1987 meeting, to fix limitations of catch on any species for the 1987/88 season as a binding measure, and permit a similar procedure to be used after 1987/88.

129. No attempt was made to assess the krill resources. The krill catch increased in the 1985/86 season to the second largest on record. Several projects aiming at making krill assessment possible are being executed or are planned. A Scientific Seminar on Antarctic Ocean Variability and its Influence on Marine Living Resources, particularly Krill, organized jointly by CCAMLR and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in co-operation with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), will be held in 1987.

130. The English version of the joint FAO/CCAMLR Species Identification Sheets for the Southern Ocean were published in 1986.

131. The next meeting of the Commission will be held from 26 October to 6 November 1987 in Hobart, Australia.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

132. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) held its Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting in Bournemouth, UK in July 1985 and its Thirty-eighth Annual Meeting in Malmö, Sweden, in June 1986.

133. During the period under review, Ireland and the Solomon Islands became parties to the Convention, while Jamaica withdrew, thus bringing the Commission's membership to 41 States.

134. Following the Commission's decision in 1982 that the catch limits for commercial whaling would be set at zero from the 1986 coastal season and the 1985/86 pelagic season, the Commission did not discuss catch limits for commercial whaling at its Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth Annual Meetings. This decision is to be kept under review and it was agreed that, by 1990 at the latest, the Commission would undertake a comprehensive assessment of the effects of the decision on whale stocks and consider modification of this provision and the establishment of other catch limits.

135. At its Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting, the report of a working group on the future activities of the Commission during the pause in commercial whaling was discussed by the Commission. It included plans for the comprehensive assessment of the whale stocks and the effects (including socio-economic) of the zero catch limits. Plans were also developed for a review of the Indian Ocean Sanctuary in 1987; the integration of a Second International Decade of Cetacean Research as the Whale component of the FAO/UNEP Global Plan of Action for Marine Mammals; a review procedure for scientific research catches under special permit; and humane killing studies in aboriginal subsistence fisheries.

136. At both Annual Meetings, the Commission set catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling which are not subject to the pause in commercial whaling. The Commission discussed proposals regarding the revision of the 1946 Convention. In the absence of a broad consensus on the matter, it was agreed to retain the item on the agenda for the next Annual Meeting. Likewise there was disagreement among the Contracting Parties regarding the Commission's competence over the species not listed in the Annex on Nomenclature of Whales to the Final Act of the 1946 International Whaling Conference. This item was also retained on the agenda for the next Annual Meeting of the Commission.

137. At its Thirty-eighth Annual Meeting the Commission endorsed the plan of its Scientific Committee to carry out a "Comprehensive Assessment of Whale Stocks".

138. The Commission will hold its Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting in Bournemouth, UK, in June 1987.

II. INLAND FISHERY BODIES

Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL)

139. The Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL) held its Fourth Session in Havana, Cuba, in January 1986.

140. The Commission reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the Fourth Session of its Working Party on Fishery Resources, held in Panama in September 1985. The recommendations included the holding of a workshop to analyse and discuss rapid methods of evaluating riverine fish resources, and to develop data series on the evolution of multispecies fisheries in rivers. The Commission expressed deep concern about the risks of introduction of new species and assigned high priority to further work in this field by the Working Party.

141. The Commission examined the report of the Second Session of its Working Party on Fisheries Technology, held in El Salvador in October 1985. The Commission emphasized the fundamental importance of improved fishing technology in the expansion of inland fisheries and noted that lack of trained fishing technologists in national fisheries institutions had been an important constraint. It recommended that regional training in fishing technology be increased.

142. The Second Session of the Working Party on Aquaculture of COPESCAL was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in September 1986. It reviewed the progress made by member countries and noted that the FAO Regional Office (RLAC) had proposed organizing a regional seminar on rural aquaculture in cooperation with OLDEPESCA. A workshop on the methodology and management of fisheries in small lakes and ponds, and a training course on planning for aquaculture development are also planned by RLAC.

143. The Fifth Session of the Commission will be held in 1988.

Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA)

144. Since the last session of COFI, Lesotho and Guinea joined the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA) . The Committee held its Sixth Session in October 1985 in Lusaka, Zambia. A Symposium

on the Planning and Implementation of Fisheries Management and Development Programmes was also held in conjunction with the Session.

145. The Committee reviewed its major intersessional activities and noted that the Secretariat had produced an African reservoir fishery bibliography; a review of the performance of the FAO/UNDP project on large African reservoirs; and a synthesis of information on large African reservoirs. The Committee emphasized the importance of accurate and reliable statistics in fisheries planning, development and management. It called on FAO to intensify and strengthen its training programmes in fisheries statistics. A review of the state of pollution in West and Central African inland waters, which described pollution problems in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria, as well as the problem of the evaluation of the impact of pesticides in African inland waters was discussed by the Committee. The CIFA Working Party on Water Pollution Effects on Fisheries held its first session in Accra, Ghana, in June 1986 and reviewed reports on the state of pollution of African inland waters, existing pollution monitoring and research programmes.

146. The Committee reviewed the intersessional activities and the recommendations of the CIFA Sub-Committee for the Development and Management of Lake Victoria, the CIFA Sub-Committee for Lake Tanganyika, the CIFA Sub-Committee for the Protection and Development of the Fisheries in the Sahelian Zone and the CIFA Working Party on Stock Assessment.

147. The Seventh Session of CIFA is scheduled to be held in Dakar, Senegal, in 1987.

European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC)

148. The European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) held its Fourteenth Session in Bordeaux, France, from 27 May to 3 June 1986. A Symposium on "Selection, Hybridization and Genetic Engineering in Aquaculture of Fish and Shellfish for Consumption and Stocking" was organized in conjunction with the Session.

149. The Commission reviewed its activities in the fields of fishery biology and management, fish culture and diseases and water pollution control since 1984 and made proposals for its intersessional work. Discussions were focused particularly on lake fisheries management, fishing gear selectivity, and study and culture of economically important species such as crayfish and eel. Fish diseases and nutrition, as well as the prevention and control of bird predation, were also discussed by the Commission.

150. The Commission considered that the continuation of the publication of reports on water quality criteria for European freshwater fish was one of its major achievements. It noted that the Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe had discussed the problems of aquaculture development in Europe and had suggested that EIFAC should consider the most appropriate means for implementing the actions recommended by the Conference. As a first step, it agreed to prepare a questionnaire of opportunities for aquaculture and fisheries training in the member countries as a basis for the establishment of a training programme in Europe.

151. The Fifteenth Session of EIFAC will be held in Göteborg, Sweden, from 30 May to 7 June 1988. It will include a symposium on Management Schemes for Inland Water Fisheries.

III. SELECTED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES CONCERNED WITH FISHERIES

Association of Southeast-Asian Nations (ASEAN)

152. The Seventh and Eighth Annual Meetings of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry were held in Bangkok, Thailand, in December 1985 and in Jakarta, Indonesia, in November 1986 respectively.

153. Pursuant to the decision of the Seventh Meeting, a Task Force was formed under the ASEAN Coordinating Group on Fisheries (CGFi) to study and finalize a draft proposal on the establishment of an ASEAN Fisheries Development Centre. At the request of the Chairman of the Coordinating Group, FAO provided a consultant to assist the ASEAN Task Force members in finalizing the proposal.

154. The South China Sea Programme was completed in mid-1985, and in October of the same year the ASEAN/UNDP/FAO Regional Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries Development Project became operational under a one-year preparatory phase.

155. The ad hoc Working Group on Fisheries set up for the Eighth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers reviewed the progress of the projects of the Coordinating Group on Fisheries of the ASEAN Committee on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (COFAF). FAO/UNDP and ASEAN are making the final arrangements to start a regional Project on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zones of ASEAN countries. The project will be executed by FAO and ASEAN member countries.

European Economic Community (EEC)

156. During the period under review, the Council of the European Communities adopted regulations concerning total allowable catches (TACs) in the Community waters and set catch quotas for each Member State for 1985 and 1986. It also adopted regulations establishing technical measures to ensure the better management of fishery resources. These regulations were based on the results of a series of biological studies carried out in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. In 1985, the Council adopted a series of regulations establishing conditions for fishing with regard to the entry of Spain and Portugal into the European Communities with effect from 1 January 1986.

157. In 1986, the Commission enacted measures concerning the restructuring and modernization of Member States' fleets, the development of the aquaculture sector, the promotion of experimental fishing and the encouragement of the establishment of joint ventures.

158. The foreign fishing policy of the Community in the past two years can be summarized as follows:

(a) there have been consultations on the existing agreements with Canada, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Norway, Sweden and the United States, in order to determine relationships in fisheries with these countries;

(b) modification of existing agreements or the conclusion of new agreements with Equatorial Guinea, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Seychelles. Negotiations are also in progress with Cape Verde, Dominica and Mauritius;

(c) in accordance with its exclusive competence in fishing matters and under the provisions of the Act of Accession (Arts. 167 and 354) by Portugal and Spain, the Community has assumed the responsibility for fishing agreements concluded by these two countries.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

159. The OECD Committee for Fisheries has held four meetings since the last session of COFI. It has continued to attach high priority to the annual Review of Fisheries in OECD member countries, as well as to the problems associated with the management of the resources in the coastal States' fishery zones.

160. The Review of Fisheries describes the developments and changes in or affecting the commercial fisheries of Member States. In particular, it deals with government actions relating to resources management, financial support, economic efficiency, bilateral arrangements regarding access to resources, production, processing and marketing.

161. A major OECD undertaking over recent years has been the analysis of problems of trade in fishery products. In 1985, the study, "Problems of Trade in Fishery Products" which had begun in 1982, was published. The OECD Committee for Fisheries is currently preparing studies on the possibilities for further liberalization of trade and the problems of access to resources. The latter study includes bilateral arrangements, conditions of access to resources and ways in which the total allowable catch of resources under coastal States' jurisdiction is determined.

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

162. The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center's Council of Directors, which is the governing body of the organization, held its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions in Bangkok, Thailand, in December 1985 and in Tokyo, Japan, in November 1986. At both meetings, the Council was informed of the progress achieved by the three Departments of the Center (Training, Marine Fisheries Research and Aquaculture) and approved their proposed programmes of activities for the following year.

163. In 1985, the Council was informed by the SEAFDEC Secretariat that official invitations had been sent to the Brunei Darussalam and the Repulic of Indonesia to become members of the Center. In view of the termination of the UNDP/FAO South China Sea Programme and the increasing interest of the Association of Southeast-Asian Nations (ASEAN) in fisheries programmes, the Council agreed to cooperate with ASEAN in order to promote fisheries development and management in the region.

164. The SEAFDEC Review Committee established by the Council during its Eighteenth Session assessed the activities of SEAFDEC during the past 18 years and expressed satisfaction with its work in asssisting member countries. It also discussed the future direction of the Center in order to increase its role as a mechanism for fisheries and aquaculture development in the region.

165. The Center cooperated with FAO in organizing a workshop on shared stocks in Southeast Asia in February 1985, and a seminar on Fisheries Planning, Management and Development in October 1985. The Center has implemented the Southeast Asian Fisheries Information System (SEAFIS) and assisted in the development and establishment of the national fishery information network in Southeast Asia.

South Pacific Commission (SPC)

166. The Twenty-fifth and the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Conferences were held from 30 September to 4 October 1985 in Honiara, Solomon Islands and from 3 to 5 November 1986 in Papeete, French Polynesia, respectively. The Twenty-fifth Conference endorsed the SPC Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme for a five-year period from 30 September 1986. The South Pacific Commission (SPC) held its Seventeenth and Eighteenth regional Technical Meetings on Fisheries in Noumea, New Caledonia, in August 1985 and 1986, respectively.

167. At both technical meetings, the topics discussed included a review of the SPC coastal fisheries work programme; the SPC/UNDP regional refrigeration assessment and training project; the SPC tuna and billfish assessment programme; fisheries extension services in the Pacific Islands; and survey and assessment of inshore fisheries resources.

168. A Workshop on Fish Handling and Processing, organized by SPC, was held at Port Vila, Vanuatu, in June 1986. Two FAO experts participated. The Commission also organized a Workshop on Fisheries Stock Assessment in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 30 June to 11 July 1986, for which FAO/UNDP provided the major funding through the South Pacific Fisheries Development Programme.

169. FAO cooperates with SPC in providing, upon request, data on tuna fishing statistics. SPC attended the FAO Ad Hoc Consultation on Global Tuna Statistics held in Colombo in December 1985, at which the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (I-ATTC) and the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) were also represented. The consultation has been followed up by positive steps toward the exchange and review of data held by participating agencies.

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

170. The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) was formed in 1981 to pool the resources of seven countries and territories of the Lesser Antilles, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

171. During 1985 and 1986, OECS member countries continued their efforts to promote the development and implementation of regional fishery projects and programmes. Many of the Organization's activities arose from the recommendations of three OECS/FAO-sponsored fishery workshops held in 1983 and 1984 for the purpose of preparing draft harmonized legislation for fishery development and management.

172. One such follow-up activity was the implementation, with FAO assistance, of a training programme aimed at developing a network of expertise in fisheries law and administration within the OECS region.

173. The OECS is presently establishing, with assistance from the Canadian International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD), a fisheries desk based in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The responsibilities of the Desk include: to assist OECS countries in the development and management of their fishery resources and the preservation of their marine environment; to assist in preparing national fisheries development plans; to establish a regional fisheries information centre, and to assist OECS governments in monitoring the application of fisheries laws and regulations.

Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fish Products in the Asian/Pacific Region (INFOFISH)

174. In 1985 the Director-General of FAO, convened a Conference of Plenipotentiaries with a view to adopting an Agreement on the establishment of an intergovernmental organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH). The Agreement was adopted and opened for signature and will enter into force after the instruments of ratification or accession of at least five countries have been deposited with the Director-General of FAO.

175. The objectives of INFOFISH are (i) to enable the fisheries of the Contracting Parties to develop in accordance with current and future market demand; (ii) to contribute to the upgrading and modernization of fisheries of the Contracting Parties; (iii) to make the best use of export opportunities within and outside the Asia and Pacific region; and (iv) to promote technical and economic cooperation among the Contracting Parties. INFOFISH will provide marketing information to its members on fishery products; advise on product specifications, processing methods and quality standards in accordance with market requirements; assist in the planning and implementation of national fish market information; and train staff in governments, institutions and industry in marketing field .

176. The organs of INFOFISH are : a Governing Council, a Technical and Advisory Board and a Director. The first session of the Governing Council will be held as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Agreement.

Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
C A R P A S Regional Fisheries Advisory Commission for the Southwest Atlantic	1961 Resolution of FAO Conference (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay	Southwest Atlantic and inland waters of member countries	To develop organized approach among members for the management and regional exploitation of marine and inland fishery resources; to encourage training and cooperative investigations
C C A M L R Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	1980 International Convention	Hobart (Australia)	Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, EEC, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Fed. Rep. of), India, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, USSR, UK, USA	Antarctic Ocean	To ensure that all harvesting and research activities are conducted in accordance with the objectives of the Convention; to formulate, adopt and revise conservation measures; to compile, analyse and disseminate information on the status of resources and to facilitate research activities
C E C A F Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic	1967 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-2 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy), Secretary located in Dakar (Senegal)	Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Togo, USA, Zaire	Eastern Central Atlantic between Cape Spartel and the Congo River	To promote programmes of development for rational utilization of fishery resources; to assist in establishing basis for regulatory measures; to encourage training
C I F A Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa	1971 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-2 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy), Secretary located in Accra (Ghana)	Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Inland waters of Africa	To promote programmes of research for the rational utilization of inland fishery resources; to assist in establishing scientific basis for regulatory measures; to assist in the development of fish culture; to encourage education and training

Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
C O P E S C A L Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America	1976 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela	Inland waters of Latin America	To promote research for the rational utilization of inland fishery resources; to assist in establishing scientific basis for regulatory measures; to assist in the development of aquaculture; to encourage education and training
C T M F M Joint Technical Commission for the Argentina/Uruguay Maritime Front	1974 International Agreement	Montevideo (Uruguay)	Argentina, Uruguay	South Atlantic	To adopt and coordinate plans and measures relevant to conservation, preservation and the rational exploitation of living resources and the protection of the maritime environment in the common fishing zone
E I F A C European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission	1957 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Fed. Rep. of), Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, Yugoslavia	Inland waters of Europe	To assist in the collection of information, to promote cooperation among governmental organizations; to advise on the development of inland fisheries
G F C M General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean	1949 International Agreement under aegis of FAO (Article XIV of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia	Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters	To promote the development, conservation and management of living marine resources; to formulate and recommend conservation measures; to encourage training cooperative projects
Mixed Commission for Black Sea Fisheries	1959 International Convention	Constanza (Romania)	Bulgaria, Romania, USSR	Black Sea	To take actions for the regulation and rational exploitation of the living resources, to carry out scientific studies on oceanography, fishing technology and aquaculture

Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
I-A T T C Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	1949 International Convention	La Jolla, California (USA)	France, Japan, Nicaragua Panama, USA	Eastern Pacific Ocean	To gather and interpret information on tuna; to conduct scientific investigation; to recommend proposals for joint action for conservation
I B S F C International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission	1973 International Convention	Warsaw (Poland)	EEC, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Sweden, USSR	Baltic Sea and the Belts	To keep the fisheries under review; to coordinate scientific research; to recommend regulatory measures including catch quotas and enforcement schemes
I C C A T International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	1966 International Convention	Madrid (Spain)	Angola, Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Morocco, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, USSR, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela	Atlantic Ocean including the adjacent seas	To study the population of tuna and tuna-like fishes; to make recommendations designed to maintain these populations at levels permitting maximum sustainable catch
I C E S International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	1902 International Convention	Copenhagen (Denmark)	Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Fed. Rep. of), Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, USSR, UK, USA	Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas with particular reference to the North Atlantic	To promote and encourage research and investigation on the seas, particularly those related to the living resources thereof; to draw up programmes required for this purpose; to publish or otherwise disseminate the result of research and investigation
I C S E A F International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries	1969 International Convention	Madrid (Spain)	Angola, Bulgaria, Cuba, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Fed. Rep. of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain, USSR	Southeast Atlantic south of the Congo River and north of parallel 50°S	To carry out studies and research; to make recommendations for joint action through closed areas and seasons, size limitations, gear control, total catch limit and other measures

Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
I N P F C International North Pacific Fisheries Commission	1952 International Convention	Vancouver (Canada)	Canada, Japan, USA	North Pacific Ocean	To provide for scientific studies regarding anadromous species; to provide a forum for cooperation with respect to the study relating to stocks of non-anadromous species
I O F C Indian Ocean Fishery Commission	1967 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Comoros, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of) Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Seychelles, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, UK, USA, Viet Nam	Indian Ocean and adjacent seas (excluding the Antarctic area)	To promote programmes for fishery development and conservation; to promote research and development activities; to examine management problems with particular reference to offshore resources
I P F C Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission	1948 International Agreement under aegis of FAO (Article XIV of FAO Constitution)	Bangkok (Thailand)	Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, Democratic Kampuchea, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK, USA, Viet Nam	Indo-Pacific area (including inland waters)	To keep fishery resources under review; to formulate and recommend conservation and management measures; to keep under review the economic and social aspects of fishing; to encourage training and research
I P H C International Pacific Halibut Commission	1953 International Convention	Seattle, Washington (USA)	Canada, USA	North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea	To coordinate scientific studies relating to the halibut fishery; to formulate regulations designed to develop the stocks of halibut to those levels which will permit optimum yield

Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
I W C International Whaling Commission	1946 International Convention	Cambridge (UK)	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany (Fed. Rep. of), Iceland, India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USSR, UK, USA, Uruguay	All waters in which whaling is carried out and land stations	To encourage or organize studies relating to whales; to collect and analyse information; to adopt regulations with respect to the conservation and utilization of whale resources
J F C Joint Fishery Commission	1962 International Convention	Havana (Cuba)	Bulgaria, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania, USSR	Atlantic Ocean and other oceans, Baltic Sea, Black Sea	Coordination of research activities among member countries. Exchange of experience in the operation of fishing fleets, in fishing techniques, in the storage, processing and transport of fish, organization of scientific and technical conferences and meetings on various fishery problems
N A F O Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization	1978 International Convention	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (Canada)	Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, Denmark (for Faroe Islands), EEC, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Poland, Romania, USSR	Northwest Atlantic Ocean	To contribute to the optimum utilization and rational management and conservation of the fishery resources
N A S C O North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization	1982 International Convention	Edinburgh (UK)	Canada, Denmark (for Faroe Islands), EEC, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, USA	Atlantic Ocean north of 36°N latitude	To promote the acquisition analysis and dissemination of scientific information pertaining to salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean; to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international cooperation

Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
N E A F C North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission	1980 International Convention	London (UK)	Bulgaria, Denmark (for Faroe Islands), EEC, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, USSR	Northeast Atlantic Ocean	To provide a forum for consultation and exchange of information on the state of fisheries resources in the Northeast Atlantic, and on related management policies to ensure the conservation and optimum utilization of such resources; and to recommend conservation measures in waters outside national jurisdiction
N P F S C North Pacific Fur Seal Commission	1952 International Convention	Washington, D.C. (USA)	Canada, Japan, USSR, USA,	North Pacific Ocean	To formulate and coordinate research programmes; to recommend conservation measures and sealing methods
O L D E P E S C A Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries	1984 International Convention	Lima (Peru)	El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela	Oceans bordering Latin America	To provide adequately for the food needs of Latin America and Caribbean, using the potential of fishery resources for the benefit of the people in the region
P S C Pacific Salmon Commission	1985 International Convention	Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada)	Canada, USA	Northwest Pacific	To prevent overfishing and provide for optimum production and to provide for each country to receive benefits equivalent to the production of salmon originating in its waters
S P F F A South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency	1979 International	Honiara (Solomon Islands)	Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	South Pacific (Central and West)	To harmonize fishery management policies; to facilitate cooperation in surveillance and enforcement, processing, marketing and relations with third countries; to arrange for reciprocal access by member countries to their respective 200-mile zones

Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
S P P C South Pacific Permanent Commission	1952 International Convention	Bogota (Colombia)	Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru	South Pacific (East)	To carry out studies and adopt resolutions with a view to the conservation and improved use of resources; to standardize the regulations governing fishing
W E C A F C Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission	1973 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, USA, Venezuela	Western Central Atlantic Ocean	To facilitate the coordination of research; to encourage education and training; to assist Member Governments in establishing rational policies, to promote the rational management of resources that are of interest for two or more countries